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Before the Iron Age

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Stellingen

1. Insights in human frequentation of North Calabria in the period between the Copper Age and the Early Bronze Age have been gained only in cave sites. Interestingly, the lack of open air settlements in this transition period is a phenomenon that occurs not only in North Calabria but also in other Italian regions.
2. Facies: “A part of a bigger unit or style that can be distinguished in some way on the basis of appearance or composition. Although the term was originally developed in the field of geology, it has increasing application in archaeology with reference to chronological or regional variants of bigger traditions or industries”. (The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology, Current Online Version 2009). So this means that a facies can be distinguished “in some way.”
3. In the history of the Mediterranean, the Early Iron Age is the period of development of urban centers and complex societies. The emphasis on Greek colonization movements as the main reason of early urbanization dominates the archaeological perspective. Although the Greek colony of Sybaris was founded in the study area, urbanization processes did not take place in its surroundings.
4. Based on the literature, it appears that Middle Bronze Age settlements were placed on the hills overlooking the Sybaris plain and were missing in the hinterland of the Sibaritide. This thesis shows that RAP sites detected in the hinterland of the Sibaritide were settled during the Middle Bronze Age.
5. “The Avellino Pumices eruption occurred in 3945 ± 10 cal. BC (1995 ± 10 cal BC).” (Sevink *et al.* 2011). “The measurement on the Palma Campania site confirms its anteriority with respect to Avellino” (Passariello *et al.* 2009). Indeed, at Palma Campania, after which the Palma Campania pottery facies was named, this pottery was found underneath the pyroclastic deposits from the Avellino eruption. Therefore, the Avellino eruption is defined by a date, which falls in the EBA, and by a specific archaeological trace represented by the Palma Campania pottery. At La Starza, another site close to Avellino, some huts with Palma Campania pottery “were uncovered above the Avellino pumices, indicating a transition stage between the Early Bronze Age and the Middle Bronze Age, i.e. a transition stage between the Palma Campania and the Protoappenninico B cultures.” (Passariello *et al.* 2009). Therefore, “The eruption probably does not mark the end of the facies of Calma Campania, which must occur later – but how much?” (C. Albore Livadie 2016).
6. Everything is relative (A. Einstein), including absolute dating methods.
7. A PhD thesis in a non-native language can test writing skills more than research ability.
8. When I pass away I would not like archaeologists to clean my bones with a brush, put them in plastic bags and then not publish them.
9. One of the results of the European Union is that Italian archaeologists do research on Italian archaeological sites while living abroad.
10. Pottery assemblages in pre- and proto-history usually result in huge quantities of cups, bowls and jugs and very low quantities of dishes, which reveals the drinking habits of past societies.